

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMES W. GOOD,)	
)	
Plaintiff(s),)	No. C05-5299 SBA (BZ)
)	
v.)	ORDER SCHEDULING
)	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE
)	
STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE)	
INSURANCE CO.,)	
)	
Defendant(s).)	
)	
_____)	

The above matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Bernard Zimmerman for settlement purposes.

You are hereby notified that a settlement conference is scheduled for **Thursday, April 5, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom G, 15th Floor, Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

It is the responsibility of counsel to ensure that whatever discovery is needed for all sides to evaluate the case for settlement purposes is completed by the date of the settlement conference. Counsel shall cooperate in providing discovery informally and expeditiously.

1 Lead trial counsel shall appear at the Settlement
2 Conference with the parties. Any party who is not a natural
3 person shall be represented by the person or persons **not**
4 **directly involved** in the events which gave rise to the
5 litigation but with **full** authority to negotiate a settlement. A
6 person who needs to call another person not present before
7 accepting, rejecting or making any settlement offer does not
8 have full authority. If a party is a governmental entity, its
9 governing body shall designate one of its members or a senior
10 executive to appear at the Settlement Conference with authority
11 to participate in the Settlement Conference and, if a tentative
12 settlement agreement is reached, to recommend the agreement to
13 the governmental entity for its approval. An insured party
14 shall appear with a representative of the carrier with full
15 authority to negotiate up to the limits of coverage. The Court
16 shall be notified immediately if the carrier declines to attend.
17 Personal attendance of a party representative will rarely be
18 excused by the Court, and then only upon separate written
19 application demonstrating substantial hardship served on
20 opposing counsel and lodged as early as the basis for the
21 hardship is known.

22 Each party shall prepare a Settlement Conference Statement,
23 which must be served on opposing counsel and lodged (not faxed)
24 with my chambers no later than seven calendar days prior to the
25 conference. The Statement shall **not** be filed with the Clerk of
26 the Court. The Statement **may** be submitted on CD-ROM with
27 hypertext links to exhibits. Otherwise, the portion of exhibits
28 on which the party relies **shall** be highlighted. The Settlement

1 Conference Statement shall not exceed ten pages of text and
2 twenty pages of exhibits and shall include the following:

3 1. A brief statement of the facts of the case.

4 2. A brief statement of the claims and defenses
5 including, but not limited to, statutory or other grounds upon
6 which the claims are founded.

7 3. A summary of the proceedings to date and any pending
8 motions.

9 4. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for
10 further discovery, pretrial and trial.

11 5. For any party seeking relief, a description of the
12 relief sought, including an itemization of damages.

13 6. The parties' position on settlement, including present
14 demands and offers and a history of past settlement discussions.
15 The Court's time can best be used to assist the parties in
16 completing their negotiations, not in starting them.

17 Accordingly, plaintiff must serve a demand in writing no later
18 than fourteen days before the conference and defendant must
19 respond in writing no later than eight days before the
20 conference. If plaintiff seeks attorney's fees and costs,
21 plaintiff's counsel shall either include the fee claim in the
22 demand or make a separate, simultaneous demand for fees and
23 costs. Counsel shall be prepared at the conference to provide
24 sufficient information to defendant to enable the fee claim to
25 be evaluated for purposes of settlement. The parties are urged
26 to carefully evaluate their case before taking a settlement
27 position since extreme positions hinder the settlement process.

28 Along with the Statement each party shall lodge with the

1 court a document of no more than three pages containing a **candid**
2 evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on the
3 claims and defenses, and any other information that party wishes
4 not to share with opposing counsel. The more candid the parties
5 are, the more productive the conference will be. This document
6 shall not be served on opposing counsel.

7 It is not unusual for conferences to last three or more
8 hours. Parties are encouraged to participate and frankly
9 discuss their case. Statements they make during the conference
10 will not be admissible at trial in the event the case does not
11 settle. The parties should be prepared to discuss such issues
12 as:

- 13 1. Their settlement objectives.
- 14 2. Any impediments to settlement they perceive.
- 15 3. Whether they have enough information to discuss
16 settlement. If not, what additional information is needed.
- 17 4. The possibility of a creative resolution of the dispute.

18 The parties shall notify Magistrate Judge Zimmerman's
19 chambers immediately if this case settles prior to the date set
20 for settlement conference. Counsel shall provide a copy of this
21 order to each party who will participate in the conference.

22 Dated: April 26, 2006

23 

24 Bernard Zimmerman
25 United States Magistrate Judge
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